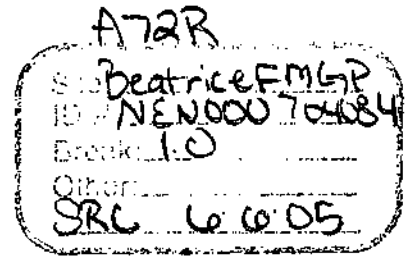




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101



June 6, 2005

Scott A. Young
Polsinelli Shalton Welte Suelthaus PC
700 West 47th Street, Suite 1000
Kansas City, MO 64112-1802

Re: Beatrice Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site ("Site")
Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Young:

This letter is in response to your letter of June 2, 2005, on behalf of Centel Corporation. In light of the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in Cooper Industries, Inc. v. Aviall Services, Inc., we are proposing several revisions of the draft consent order that was sent to Centel and the city of Beatrice a few days ago. Enclosed is a revised draft order. The proposed revisions (noted in red type) are intended to make clear that a settling Respondent has resolved liability for response costs or response actions addressed in the order and is entitled under CERCLA § 113(f)(2)(B) to seek contribution protection from other parties.

The city of Beatrice has also indicated its willingness to participate in negotiations regarding the Site and is available to participate in a settlement conference on June 23 or June 24. Please advise of your availability for a meeting on those dates. Or, if you are not available on those dates, please contact me (913-551-7277) to discuss alternate dates.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Peterson
Assistant Regional Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Larson

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